



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 1089

January Session, 2009

* SB01089JUD 033009 *

AN ACT CONCERNING AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 52-557b of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *January 1, 2010*):

4 (a) A person licensed to practice medicine and surgery under the
5 provisions of chapter 370 or dentistry under the provisions of section
6 20-106 or members of the same professions licensed to practice in any
7 other state of the United States, a person licensed as a registered nurse
8 under section 20-93 or 20-94 or certified as a licensed practical nurse
9 under section 20-96 or 20-97, a medical technician or any person
10 operating a cardiopulmonary resuscitator or an automatic external
11 defibrillator, [or] a person trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation or
12 in the use of an automatic external defibrillator in accordance with the
13 standards set forth by the American Red Cross or American Heart
14 Association, who, voluntarily and gratuitously and other than in the
15 ordinary course of such person's employment or practice, renders
16 emergency medical or professional assistance to a person in need
17 thereof, or a person or entity providing, maintaining or using an
18 automatic external defibrillator in accordance with section 21a-223,
19 shall not be liable to such person assisted for civil damages for any
20 personal injuries which result from acts or omissions by such person in

21 rendering the emergency care, which may constitute ordinary
 22 negligence. The immunity provided in this subsection does not apply
 23 to acts or omissions constituting gross, wilful or wanton negligence.
 24 With respect to the use of an automatic external defibrillator, the
 25 immunity provided in this subsection shall only apply to acts or
 26 omissions involving the use of an automatic external defibrillator in
 27 the rendering of emergency care. Nothing in this subsection shall be
 28 construed to exempt paid or volunteer firefighters, police officers or
 29 emergency medical services personnel from completing training in
 30 cardiopulmonary resuscitation or in the use of an automatic external
 31 defibrillator in accordance with the standard set forth by the American
 32 Red Cross or American Heart Association. For the purposes of this
 33 subsection, "automatic external defibrillator" means a device that: (1) Is
 34 used to administer an electric shock through the chest wall to the heart;
 35 (2) contains internal decision-making electronics, microcomputers or
 36 special software that allows it to interpret physiologic signals, make
 37 medical diagnosis and, if necessary, apply therapy; (3) guides the user
 38 through the process of using the device by audible or visual prompts;
 39 and (4) does not require the user to employ any discretion or judgment
 40 in its use.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>January 1, 2010</i>	52-557b(a)
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JUD *Joint Favorable Subst.*